

The Marshal

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ROBERT FORSYTH CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



By Gary Page

Well, here we are halfway through 2019 already! As mentioned in my welcome address, I encouraged not only the chapter membership, but also challenged myself to become more active and participate in more State and National events and activities. I completed my uniform late last fall, acquired a musket and joined the Militia/Color Guard.

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ROTC PROGRAM HAS A LOT OF HISTORY IN FORSYTH COUNTY

By Ed Rigel Jr.

The North Forsyth High School Marine Corps JROTC program started in 1996 recently completed its 23rd year, with more than 2800 Cadets having passed through the program during that time. There are no prerequisites to joining the program other than a "good willing attitude." Major Kelly believes the primary goal of the program is to help students mature and grow into adulthood faster. He and the other instructors are able to give attention to attributes that other teachers may have missed or may not have time for in the regular curriculum.



Bronze Good Citizenship Medal being presented to Major C. E. M. Kelly, USMC (Ret.) by Ed Rigel Jr.

Photo by Gary Page

Cadets participate in a variety of events including Drill Team, Rifle Team, and the "Raider Challenge" Physical Fitness competition. At this past year's National Competition, the Mixed team finished fifth, the Male team finished third, and the Female team finished first. The Drill Team has been nationally ranked every year since 2004. Cadets also participate in community service activities such as staffing races at the high school and providing manpower for events such as parking direction and crowd control.

Major Kelly is most proud of the patriotism displayed by the Cadets, but also cites their hard work and perseverance.

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PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

I have gone to numerous State and National events such as National Leadership in Louisville, participated in the reenactment of the Battle of Kettle Creek and joined in the multi-State Color Guard for the American Village Flagpole Dedication among numerous other events though out the state. I can honestly say this has been unbelievably rewarding and extremely enjoyable. I have gone to new places that I have never been in Georgia and driving on back country roads reinforces just how beautiful the State of Georgia really is. Georgia is so rich in Revolutionary War history. I have also met many of our compatriots from around the state and country and formed many new friends. Once again, I encourage you to take full advantage of and experience what SAR has to offer.

As I listened to the President and Founder of the American Village, Tom Walker, Tom discussed the lack of knowledge of American History students from high schools to renowned universities that are simply not requiring nor teaching the foundations of our Republic. As Tom so eloquently put it, "Our country faces growing national amnesia of the constitutional foundations of our freedom and self-government."

As SAR members, we all take pride in the fact that we have one or more ancestors who fought or supported our independence from England, but with that membership, I believe, we have accepted an obligation to insure the legacy of our Founding Fathers and of the freedoms we enjoy in this Great Nation of the United States of America. In a 1948 speech to the House of Commons, Winston Churchill quoted the George Santayana's famous line, "Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it."

There are 36,000 SAR members nationwide and we, both as individuals and as an organization, can certainly have an impact locally and nationally. Having an association with outside organizations like the American Village, which has seen over 750,000 school age passthrough, multiplies our educational outreach. However, daunting the current negative environment is, we as SAR members must persevere and pass our knowledge and heritage on the younger generations.

Now that summer is here, to all our Compatriots and your families safe travels and have a wonderful summer.

ROTC PROGRAM (CONT.)

He gave an example of one Cadet who did not graduate on time but who had the strength to come back for a fifth year and leave with his diploma.

Cadets from the program have entered into a variety of Military and Civilian careers. More than 30% graduate to the Military in some form, with the program having at least one alumnus at a Military Academy every year since 2000. There have been more than 40 commissions to the Marine Corps and Army through the JROTC program.

Graduates have gone on to be EMTs, police officers, firefighters, and teachers. Two graduates Major Kelly is especially proud of are currently a First Sergeant at Fort Stewart, and a helicopter pilot who flies Marine 1. Major Kelly enlisted in the US Marine Corps on 06 June 1971 and served 23 years active duty in Intelligence at various overseas postings. In 1996 he was selected to be the Senior Marine Instructor for the newly formed MCJROTC program at North Forsyth. During his tenure, North Forsyth has been a National Naval Honor School for 14 consecutive years and for four of the past five years they have been the number 1 ranked school in the Southeast Region.



November 10th, 1775

MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Driving home from Raleigh on a rainy Sunday at the end of spring break, Eva and I stopped at Kings Mountain Military Park in South Carolina to pay our respects to our Patriot ancestor, Charles Word, Jr. This is something I've wanted to do for a long time.

We walked the Battlefield Trail and took in the tales on the interpretive signs along the way. The Colonial Road, intact along the walking trail, gave rise to the countless stories that could be told about where we were.



As we stood on the place where President Hoover delivered his remarks on the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, the enormity of 75,000 Americans gathered in the woods along the border of North & South Carolina was realized. 75,000 people standing around the President of the United States as he recounted what occurred at that location on October 7, 1780. The fanfare. The logistics. Simply put, this WOULD not occur today.

A DAR marker highlights the black patriots that took part in the battle; likely something many people are not aware of. No visit to Kings Mountain would be complete without the ceremonial chucking of a stone at Ferguson's grave. I let my daughter have the honors, to which she readily obliged.



Left: Ferguson's Memorial reads: TO THE MEMORY OF / COL. PATRICK FERGUSON / SEVENTY-FIRST REGIMENT. / HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY. BORN IN ABERDEENSHIRE, / SCOTLAND IN 1744. / KILLED OCTOBER 7, 1780 / IN ACTION AT / KING'S MOUNTAIN / WHILE IN COMMAND OF / THE BRITISH TROOPS. / A SOLDIER OF MILITARY / DISTINCTION AND HONOR. THIS MEMORIAL / IS FROM THE CITIZENS OF / THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / IN TOKEN OF THEIR APPRECIATION / OF THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND / PEACE BETWEEN THEM AND THE / CITIZENS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE / ERECTED OCTOBER 7, 1930.

Ask the Expert:

With Lionel Hildebrand

If you have a question you would like to ask, please forward to the editor, eldecker@windstream.net. He will see that it gets to me.



Why do we learn a lot about the American Revolution but not about the War of 1812? If we lost either we would not be a country?

Technically, your final sentence is false. We did lose the War of 1812, which is why US history doesn't cover it much.

So, if we lost, how are we still independent? Because even though the British won almost every battle, continuing the fight was simply costing them too much. They were also fighting Napoleon at the time, and just couldn't manage to deal with war on both fronts. Yes, we did win some battles against native allies of the British in the Western theater of the war, and the Defense of Fort Mchenry. This fort was subjected to a major bombardment by the best weapons the Royal Navy could bring to bear, and yet it did not surrender.

A treaty was negotiated to end the war, and, ironically, after it was signed, the US pulled off the only battle victory we would accomplish in the entire war, the battle of New Orleans. Some historians think if Napoleon had not been distracting the British, they would have crushed us in an instant. They had learned from their last encounter not to underestimate our resolve, but we were weak as a nation. Of course, if they had not been fighting Napoleon the war with the US would never have happened. There, you see.....It's all Napoleon's fault.

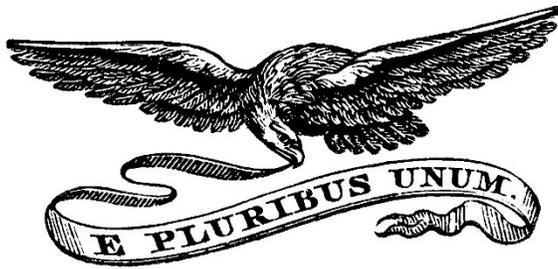
The war between us and Britain was essentially fought over what seems to be a single minor point of administrative practice: whether a naturalized U.S. citizen stopped being a subject of the British crown. This would never have been an issue except that Britain was desperately drafting any subject who had experience working aboard ships. British military ships would stop any ship which they thought might have crown subjects working on it, and then draft them if there were any found. Those who had been crown subjects earlier in life, but were now U.S. citizens objected to this. They, and their employers, claimed that they were no longer crown subjects, but American citizens and thus ineligible for the draft.

Eventually, some confrontations turned violent, and Congress decided to do something about it. The response ended up being to invade Canada, which was still a British colony. The idea was "We're going to beat up on Canada, and stop when you promise to stop drafting U.S. citizens." Unfortunately, it didn't work out so well.

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Grave Markings

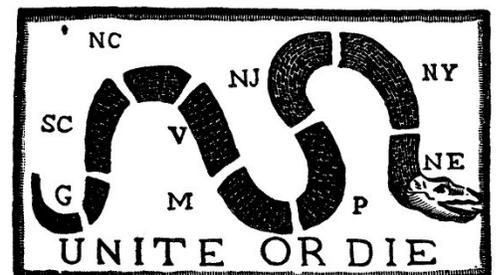
Below: Midway Georgia was once again the site of a multi-grave marking ceremony on April 28, 2019. Robert Forsyth members Emil Decker and Allen Greenly participated. Five Patriot Graves were marked. After the church service, Allen is seen chowing down at the picnic with PG J. Michael Tomme and his wife Cilla.



Below: Additional Grave markings in May included the Patriots Skinner and Carter at Pendleton Park in Augusta. Compatriots Greenly and Decker and Thurmond attended. Here Emil Decker, representing the Chapter, presents our wreath and honors with his musket.



Above: June 1st provided another opportunity to salute a Patriot of the Revolution. Thomson, Ga was the site where Patriot Thomas Ansley is buried. Ansley was neither a militiaman nor a Continental Regular. Thomas was a Quaker, and opposed to bearing arms. He was a forager and provisioner for the American forces, earning him the right to be called a Patriot, and an ancestor whose line qualifies for family members to become SAR Compatriots. Emil Decker and Gary Page attended and fired musket salutes as members of the Elijah Clarke Militia.



Chapter and Community News



If you have never heard either of these Compatriots present a program, you don't know what you are missing. Bob Sapp (Left) and Col. George Thurmond (Right) are awarded Certificates of Appreciation after a couple of very fine Presentations on consecutive months.



Left: John Flikeid joins the Honor Guard at the Roswell Remembers Ceremony honoring the service of those who gave so much. This is the largest Memorial Day Ceremony held in Georgia.

Right: Like father like son. While J.C. Hustis was participating in Memorial Day Ceremonies at the Oconee County Veterans Memorial, his father, dressed as Washington, was in Pennsylvania attending a similar event.



Chapter and Community News



Above: The Georgia SAR supports the scouts before Memorial Day in their efforts to place 18,742 flags, one on each grave present in the Marietta National Cemetery. Present this year from Robert Forsyth Chapter are: (3rd from left) Col. George Thurmond (duel member) J.C. Hustis, John Flikeid, and Allen Greenly.



Above: (L—R) Allen Greenly, Drew Kuester and Lidiya Vazemiller , Gary Page and Ed Rigel Jr. pose for the camera after the South Forsyth Middle School Students earn their Bronze Citizenship Medals.



Left: Lakeside Middle School student Griffin Johnson was also honored.

Chapter and Community News (Cont.)

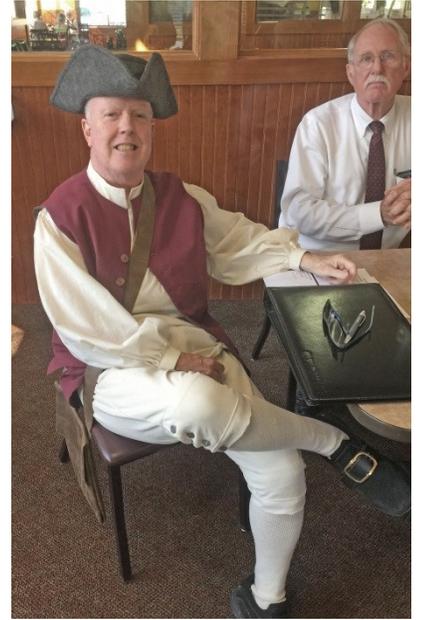


Bronze JROTC Medal being presented to Cadet Staff Sergeant Luke Cates

Photo by Gary Page

Right: Compatriot David Johnson becomes the latest member to join the "well Dressed" elite with his new Militia clothing.

Photo by: Emil Decker



Left: Compatriot Tom Slaughter gave the June chapter presentation. It was on the Southern Campaign in South Carolina, with his patriot's tie into the back and forth brawling between the loyalist and patriots there.

Photo by: Emil Decker



Above: Robert Forsyth President Gary Page (center behind drummer) and other Georgia Society members joined President General Warren Alter in Alabama at the American Village for a flagpole dedication.



Left: J.C. Hustis and Emil Decker joined other members of the Georgia Society Color Guard at the Patriotic Concert at the Gainesville First United Methodist Church. Colors were presented and later a medley of Service Anthems were played to honor all current and former members of each armed service.

Flag Retirement Ceremony



Piedmont Chapter joined Robert Forsyth Chapter as we laid 2023 of our nations great symbol to rest.

Retirement Ceremony photos by J.C. Hustis

Support of Local 99 Year old Veteran

Marian Rytkonen, a 99-year-old Forsyth County World War II veteran currently faces eviction from her residence at a local nursing home as she waits for veterans benefits, according to family and local groups. When the Robert Forsyth Chapter was made aware through the local Shadow Warriors Veteran Support Group,

the Chapter immediately sprang into action to help financially. Her story can be found at: <https://www.forsythnews.com/local/99-year-old-wwii-vet-faces-eviction-forsyth-county-local-group-steps-help/>

Photos courtesy of Forsyth County News & Alexander Popp.

As always, we are indebted to the Home Depot and Ingram's Funeral Home for their participation in our Flag Retirement Program. Home Depot stores throughout the Piedmont and Robert Forsyth territories have collected old, faded, and worn flags in their bins. Customers can drop off flags that are no longer serviceable. Additional flags are collected by Boy Scouts, Veteran groups, and other organizations. Flags are reduced to ash as befitting our proud American symbol, by the gracious people at Ingrams Funeral Home in Cumming, Ga.



Chapter and Community News (Cont.)

Law Enforcement Presentation at the US Marshal's Office.

Right: (L-R) U.S. Marshal Michael S. Yeager, Past President Tom Davis, President Gary Page, Deputy Marshal Van Grady, Ed Hooper, Emil Decker, David Johnson, and Chief Deputy Keith Booker.

Because of its namesake, the Robert Forsyth Chapter has a special relationship with the U.S. Marshal's Service. We are allowed the distinct privilege to award members of this organization with the Law Enforcement Medal. This year we recognized two US Marshals for their service.

Deputy Marshal Van Grady has served in the USN during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and presently as a Deputy U.S. Marshal, Northern District of Georgia.

Charlie Ahmad has been a criminal investigator with the U.S. Marshals Service for over 20 years. He has extensive experience in complex investigations and high-risk apprehensions, both domestically and internationally. Charlie is currently serving as Senior Inspector for the Northern District of Georgia's Protective Intelligence and Threat Investigations Program. He also served in the military with the US Army during Desert Storm.

Due to the nature of maintaining identities and operationally critical information, we received only brief bios on our recipients. These two Marshals were nominated for the successful indictment of Mitchell Dunahoo. They went to extreme measures in obtaining his federal indictment due to his ongoing harassment of the US Attorney's Office.



Below: Deputy Marshal Van Grady receives his Law Enforcement Medal from President Gary Page. Senior Inspector Charlie Ahmad was not available the day of our presentation as he was away on Marshal's business on the West coast. Chief Deputy Booker received the medal on Charlie's behalf.



[Colonel George Thurmond, Retired, is a dual member of the Piedmont and Robert Forsyth Chapters. We are happy to present his review of a couple of American Revolution books you are sure to enjoy reading. Ed.]

Decisive Day

By Richard M. Ketchum, Holt Paperbacks Publishing Company 1999. ISBN 0805060995 . Cost: \$4—20 depending on used or new, paperback or hardbound status.

This is the earliest of the Richard M. Ketchum books that I have read. This is the story of the Battle of Bunker Hill which actually was fought on Breed's Hill. Author Ketchum describes events as if he were there.

The rag tag patriot army displayed its courage in the midst of a colorful display of Britain's finest, providing considerable casualties to their enemy. It would be a battle that insured a serious effort by the British to commit to war.

Outnumbered two to one, the Continentals distinguished themselves by standing their ground and fighting the British on equal terms, inflicting casualties of about one-half of the redcoats while receiving one third in killed, wounded or captured. Bunker Hill was lost by the Patriots, not for want of courage, but for want of ammunition. As the day, June 17, 1775 wound down, unfortunately the Continentals ran out of ammunition and withdrew from the field to live and fight another day.

Three tricorns
George Thurmond



More about Charles Word

Charles Word was born between 1738-1740 to Charles Word Sr & Sarah Collins in New Kent County, VA. Charles married Elizabeth Adams and fathered seven children between 1772 and 1779. Elizabeth Adams, according to family history, was kin to Presidents John Adams & John Quincy Adams and Samuel Adams. Charles moved to Surry County, NC from Pittsylvania Co., VA before 1777 and settled on the middle fork of the Tarrarat River of Bledsoe's Creek.

When Charles was just 17 years old, he volunteered for military service during the French and Indian Wars and was under the command of then Colonel George Washington with the 'Virginia Blues' militia. Charles most likely accompanied Col. Washington on the fateful mission to capture Fort Duquesne, during which General Braddock was killed.

Charles' brothers - Thomas, John, Peter and Cuthbert – all served during the American Revolution.

Charles, along with some, if not all of his brothers, fought under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, for whom his grandson, Benjamin Cleveland Word was named. Charles was killed at the Battle of King's Mountain, October 7, 1780.

While he lay dying on the battlefield, he began writing his will. His brother, Cuthbert was captured by the British during the war and died upon the prison ship, Jersey.

Elizabeth would later marry Charles' friend, Sergeant Richard Brooks Hooper. Elizabeth and Richard Hooper had seven children together.

Some of Charles' notable kin include his great-great-grandson Asa Griggs Candler, the founder of Coca-Cola and later mayor of Atlanta and his great-great-great-grandson William Faulkner, author and Noble Prize laureate.

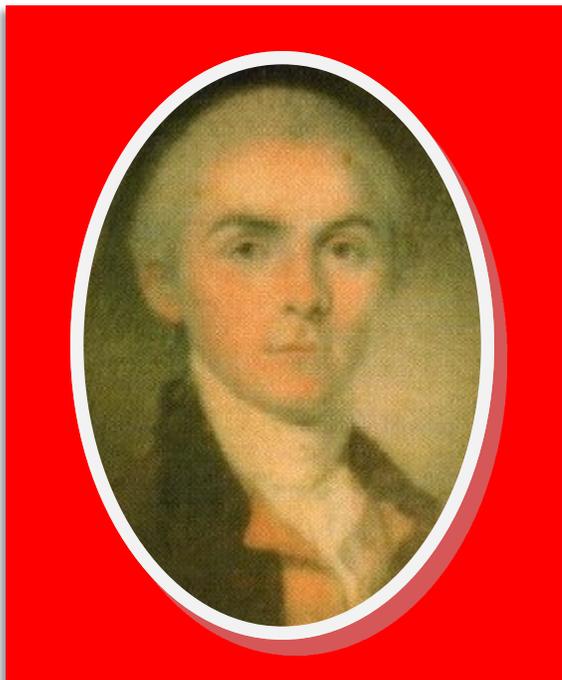
Left: The memorial to the three known African Americans present at Kings Mountain. The plaque reads:

IN HONOR OF / THE THREE KNOWN AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS / AND OTHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE / BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN / ESAIAS BOWMAN / JOHN BRODDY / ANDREW FERGUSON / MARKER PLACED BY / THE COL. FREDRICK

HAMBRIGHT CHAPTER, NSDAR / OCTOBER 7, 2016

SAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Location	Date	Level
Independence Day Program	Hall County Courthouse	Jul 3, 2019	Local
4th of July Parades, memorials, etc.	Various locations	Jul. 4, 2019	National (1 event), or State
National Congress	Costa Mesa, CA	Jul. 5-10, 2019	National
State BOM	Barnesville, GA	Jul, 27, 2019	State
Marquis de Lafayette Birthday	LaGrange, GA	Sep. 6, 2019	Local
Constitution Day	Augusta, GA	Sep. 9, 2019	State
Leadership Meeting	Louisville, KY	Sep. 19-21, 2019	National
Patriot Grave Marking	Elberton, GA	Sep. 28, 2019	State
Little River Chapter Charter Banquet	TBD	Oct. 5, 2019	State
State BOM	Barnesville, GA	Oct. 26, 2019	State
Veterans Day Program	Snellville, GA	Nov. 9, 2019	Local
Veterans Day Program	Watkinsville, GA	Nov. 11, 2019	Local



Robert Forsyth , First Marshal of the state of Georgia & first Marshal killed in the line of duty.

The Marshal

This publication is the newsletter for the Robert Forsyth Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. It is printed quarterly and is distributed to current and prospective chapter members and to certain officers of the state and national organizations and to certain officials of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at "The Golden Corral", 2025 Market Place Blvd., Cumming, GA 30041. Meal: 6:00 / Meeting 7:00.

Prospective members are always welcome at monthly membership meetings. Men, eighteen years of age and older, who are interested in documenting their relationship to their American Revolutionary ancestors and in joining an active group with similar interests are urged to contact the Chapter Registrar,

Christopher Russo at 770-315-6348, via email at guido139@yahoo.com or any chapter officer.

Deadline for the Next Issue:

The deadline for material for the next issue is SEP 30, 2019. In addition to the material, please include hi-resolution imagery. Please direct all inquires or suggestions regarding *The Marshal* to the Editor:

Emil L. Decker: Txt. at 706-482-8248 or via email to: eldecker@windstream.net.

Ask the Expert: (cont.)

With Lionel Hildebrand

U.S. forces got soundly beaten in Canada by British colonial troops, and retreated back into upper New York State. British forces pursued them across the border and deep into our country. With British colonial forces tying up the continental army somewhere in New York State or Pennsylvania, there were very few regular trained U.S. troops anywhere else in the country.

Then, British Marines landed near the city of Baltimore. With no regulars to oppose them, the militia was called out, but the professional Marines crushed the American militia.

Eventually the British Marines reached D.C., and set fire to the U.S. presidential mansion. It was not yet called the White House. The fire partially destroyed the building, so the parts which survived were painted white to cover up the char and smoke stains, hence its new name. The parts which the fire did burn down were rebuilt somewhat differently than the original plan, which is why the modern White House has a slightly different layout than the original U.S. Presidential Mansion.

The victory, which played out after the war was over, gave Andrew Jackson a ticket to the "White House", and the American population a salve for a war they very nearly lost. This pretty much explains why we gloss over the Second War of Independence.

LH.